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Approved For Release 2003/08/07 : CIA-RDP80-00810A003500530001-4

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

TOPIC New SNB Uniforms in Czechoslovakia

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DATE PREPARED 12 January 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. [redacted] SNB personnel wore new uniforms similar to Soviet police uniforms in several districts of Czechoslovakia. While about 50 percent of all SNB members wore the new uniform in Slovakia, the percentage in Bohemia was about 20. The SNBs wearing the new uniform were seen at patrol duty and traffic control.

2. The new uniform which was dark-blue and was worn with black boots consisted of breeches with narrow dark-red piping along the outer seams, a blouse with open collar with two dark-red patches and a visor-type service cap with black visor and dark-red bright cap band and with an enameled red-star emblem with the Czech national colors. No overcoats were observed. The epaulets were very large and stiffened and coated with dark-red oil cloth and had five-pointed golden stars as rank insignia. Two, three and four stars were noticed. Black leather belts with black-leather pistol holsters and shoulder straps were worn over, and dark-gray shirts with dark-blue neckties were worn under, the fairly long blouses. SNBs on official missions wore a leather case supported by a shoulder strap.

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[redacted] Comment. It is known that the uniforms of the security troops were changed after the activation of the Interior Guard which apparently wears khaki army uniforms with dark-red service color and arms insignia consisting of a star, half a toothed wheel and an upright sword on the collar. After the SNB was restricted to the missions of a uniformed regular police force this received dark-blue uniforms and had to turn into the Interior Guard the old khaki uniforms.

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